GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:490
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
INCIDENTS OF WOMEN HARASSMENT/LOOTING AND ACCIDENTS
Maharia Shri Subhash;Singh Baba Shri K.C.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that day by day, the incidents of women harassment/ looting and accidents are increasing;

(b) if so, steps being taken by the Government to prevent the same;

(c) the details of the number of cases registered in Rajasthan and other States during the last three years and the number of cases decided and the number of cases pending;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce more number of separate coaches for women to provide more security;and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU)

(a): Yes Sir. There is a marginal increase in the number of incidents of harassment of women passengers during the year 2007 compared with the previous year 2006.However, the incidents of looting and accidents have decreased in the year 2007 as compared with the previous year 2006.

Year	No. of incidents of harassment of women passengers	No. of looting of passengers	No. of accidents
2006	174	515	212
2007	199	416	191

(b): It is pertinent to mention that maintenance of law and order is a State subject and power to investigate in IPC crimes are vested with Police.Registration and detection of IPC crimes is the responsibility of Government Railway Police which works under the control of the State Governments and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

Inspite of the above fact, Railways is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort trains for security of passengers.

The following preventive measures are being taken for the security of women passengers:-

1. Ladies' compartments of sub-urban trains are normally being escorted by GRP. Special Squads comprising of women TTEs and women RPF personnel are deployed in vulnerable suburban sections,especially during the non-peak hours when likelihood of commission of crime against women is more.

2. Regular drives are conducted by RPF against male passengers traveling in ladies compartments and the offenders detected are prosecuted under the Provisions of the Railways Act.

3. Public awareness programmes are conducted by RPF with the help of NGOs and other agencies to create an environment to prevent criminal activities against women passengers.

4. GRP and RPF staff deployed on the platforms are specially instructed to keep watch on the ladies compartments of the local suburban and mail/express trains.

5. Efforts are made to provide GRP staff / Mobile chowkies in mail/express trains near the ladies compartments for immediate help to the lady passengers in case of any need during night.

6. Ladies / general coaches are placed nearer to the guard's brake van in the trains so that in the hour of need, the train guard can immediately extend help / assistance to the lady passengers.

7. Stickers bearing Railway's logo containing MTNL telephone numbers of all the police stations/control rooms of the suburban section have been pasted on both the ends of the coaches of all the local trains for the help of the passengers.

8. Public announcements are made on all the important Railway stations to keep passengers aware of the anti-social elements.

To prevent train accidents:
Safety is the prime concern on Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken to prevent accidents.These measures include adoption of suitable and modern technologies for interlocking and signaling system, upgradation of standards of track and rolling stock,modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of over-aged assets,upgradation of training aids, like simulators, checks on observance of safety precaution and provision of Anti-Collision Device.Safety drives are launched from time to time throughout the Railways to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

(c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.